

Rockville Commission on the Environment

Sustainable Rockville

November 3, 2004

A Sustainable Rockville meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

No city is self sufficient or sustainable by itself. We rely on inputs and connections to the world around us. We would hope through our actions to help create sustainable conditions in our nation and the world at large.

Rockville is part of the surrounding community and our actions interrelate with the rest of the region. A no growth stand is unworkable at the present since we do not control the rest of the region and the region is still growing. As a fairly compact community well served by transit, continued transit oriented development here can take the place of sprawl development elsewhere.

The sustainability of a system or project can be assessed in regards to four interrelated aspects:

Environment – pollution of all dimensions, from water and air, trash collection and disposal, noise, sanitation, etc., leaving space for nature and opportunities for people to enjoy it.

Energy – long term survival of Rockville will depend on the availability of diverse energy supplies at reasonable costs. Non-renewable energy will eventually decline in availability and will need to be replaced with renewable energy and conservation.

Economic – must be considered from the perspective of the resident or business establishment as well as the City's ability to provide the necessary high quality services.

Ekistics – (Original Greek uses the double vowel, oekistics.) A simple definition is the science/art of how a person functions in the society he/she finds themselves. Ekistics seeks to achieve harmony between inhabitants of an area and their physical and sociocultural environments.

To pursue the vision of greater community sustainability, local government must develop policies and promote practices that conserve natural resources over the long-term while enhancing economic vitality and social well-being. While keeping these concepts in mind, we need to move forward aggressively to build a more sustainable Rockville.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Mayor and Council adopt and support the proposed model for Sustainable Rockville.
2. Commission on the Environment appoint an ex-officio representative to other commissions, such as Planning, Transportation, etc. Such member will serve to introduce and assist the relevant commission, in the meaning of an application of the proposed model.
3. Commission will enter into a process with community input to begin planning and implementing a Sustainable Rockville.
4. Commission will draft a guidance document concerning sustainability and will use the feedback obtained from working with other commissions and citizens to modify as necessary.